

FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Church family,

In consultation with the Deacons here is what CPBC will do for the next two weeks:

We **WILL** have:

Prayer meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10AM and Wednesday Nights at 7pm. (Only Groups of 10 will meet together and we will honor social distancing).

We **will NOT** have:

Sunday School or Church Services at CPBC on Sundays for at least the next two weeks.  
Tuesday night or Wednesday night meals.  
Have any meetings of 10 or more at the church.

Why?

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) warnings are changing by the hour. It's hard to know what to do because I want to worship with my community of faith and I know others do as well. I believe that God created the church and His intention is for us to meet together regularly. However, He also tells us to obey those in authority over us. And that is what we are going to do.

I listened to a devotional prepared by Max Lucado. The essence is: during this time, he encourages believers to FEED YOUR FAITH not YOUR FEAR. I like this approach. As I shared Sunday, (for those who were with us) about our response to the Coronavirus. We should take this opportunity to realize and reaffirm that: (1) God is with us always (Psalm 121:7b&8). (2) Use more time seeking the Lord (Phil 4:6-7) and (3) Trust the Lord. (Psalm 91).

Let me be clear. I am not afraid or fearful but I am obedient. This is how I believe God is calling me to lead this congregation. Now what can we do?

The first thing is we know there are those who do not have an email address or a Facebook account and for that matter do not have access to any Web service. If you know of someone, call them or send them a note ensuring them, their church cares about them.

We can meet in small groups to pray.

We can pray for our nation as individuals. This is a great time to pray that all people of every nation and tribe will turn to a God who loves them and desires a relationship with them. Pray that God would lay some soul upon your heart.

The Lord may put someone on your heart to call and encourage in some way. Many people feel isolated and alone. Call and let them know you care.

If you are able to get out and do an errand for someone who cannot, minister to them in the name of Jesus.

In other words, there are many ways we can keep in touch and let folks know we care without meeting in large groups.

For instance, Joshua Holman, the teacher of the Alpha and Omega, will have Sunday School via Facebook. What a great idea. He is learning to set this up and will be glad to help others who may want to follow suit. Or you can call our church office and we'll tell you how to dial in to his class.

Please know, I am still at work and am available to anyone who may need a visit or prayer. (I will be cautious about the circumstances and ensure that I am protecting all). And, by all means if you need something and cannot go get it, please let me know.

This pandemic is challenging all of us to seek new ways to fellowship and minister.

Finally, do not be afraid, but by all means pay attention to the experts and follow their instructions.

I am looking forward to the day when we can sing praises and worship God together.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Steve